In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a completion packet at a receiving device, the completion packet including a completion header having a completor identification and a completion status;

determining whether the completion packet received from the identified completor is expected by the receiving device; and

discarding the completion packet if the completion packet is not expected;

wherein the receiving device includes a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the completion packet.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the completion packet is expected includes determining whether the completion packet corresponds to any outstanding requests previously issued by the receiving device.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising reporting an error condition.

4. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a completion packet at a receiving device, the completion packet including a completion header having a completion status and a completor identification;

determining whether the ~~a~~ completion status of the completion packet contains a value indicating a status other than successful; and

storing the completor identification in a first register if the completion status is other than successful;

wherein the receiving device includes a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the completion packet.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further including indicating in a second register that an unsuccessful completion was received if the completion status is other than successful.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising reporting an error condition if the completion status is other than successful.

7. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

servicing a request packet from a requesting device at a completor device, the request packet including a requestor identification and a tag;

transmitting a completion packet with a completion status other than successful from the completor device to the requesting device if an error condition exists;

storing the requestor identification at a location in the completor device if the error condition exists; and

indicating in a register in the completor device that a completion packet with a completor status other than successful was transmitted if the error condition exists;

wherein the completor device includes a general input/output communication port implementing a communication stack including a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer, the transaction layer to receive the request packet and to transmit the completion packet.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising storing the tag at a location in the completor device if the error condition exists.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising reporting the error condition if it exists.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the completor identification includes a value that corresponds to an agent that completes the request and the completion status includes a value indicating the status of the completion packet, wherein the status of the completion packet is at least one of a Successful Completion, an Unsupported Request, and a Completer Abort.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein determining whether the completion packet is expected further comprises examining the completor identification and the completion status of the completion packet.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein a completion status other than successful may be at least one of an unsupported request, a completor abort, and an unexpected completion.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein transmitting a completion packet further comprises returning no data with the completion packet for a read completion.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein a completion status other than successful may be at least one of an unsupported request, a completor abort, and an unexpected completion.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the completion header further includes a virtual channel ID field to identify a virtual channel of the completion packet.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the completion header further includes an attribute field including at least one of the following attributes: a priority attribute, a transaction ordering attribute, and a cache coherency attribute.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the completor identification includes a value that corresponds to an agent that completes the request.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the completion header further includes:

an attribute field including at least one of a priority attribute, a transaction ordering attribute, and a cache coherency attribute; and

a virtual channel ID filed to identify a virtual channel of the completion packet.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the completion packet includes a completion header having:

a completor identification including a value that corresponds to the completor agent; and

the completion status, wherein the completion status includes a value indicating the status of the completion packet.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the completion header further includes:

an attribute field including at least one of a priority attribute, a transaction ordering attribute, and a cache coherency attribute; and

a virtual channel ID filed to identify a virtual channel of the completion packet.

22. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a communication stack to communicate with another apparatus within a data processing system over a point-to-point interconnect, the communication stack having a transaction layer, a data link layer, and a physical layer;

wherein the transaction layer to:

receive a completion packet including a completion header having a completor identification and a completion status;

determine whether the completion packet received from the identified completor is expected; and

discard the completion packet if the completion packet is not expected.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein to determine whether the completion packet is expected includes determining whether the completion packet corresponds to any outstanding requests previously issued by the apparatus.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the transaction layer to report an error condition if the completion packet is not expected.